APPENDIX A

1 (Currently Amended). A vertebral stabilization assembly for stabilizing vertebrae, the assembly comprising:

a first vertebral screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion ~~operable for threading engagement of the first vertebral screw with~~ configured to threadingly engage a vertebral body of a first vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion;

a first connecting screw having a first end and a second end, the first end ~~adapted~~ configured to be substantially transversely received by the engaging portion of the first vertebral screw;

a second vertebral screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion ~~operable for threading engagement of the second vertebral screw with~~ configured to threadingly engage a vertebral body of a second vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion;

a second connecting screw having a first end and a second end, the first end ~~adapted~~ configured to be substantially transversely received by the engaging portion of the second vertebral screw; and

a connecting member having ~~a first end, a second end,~~ a first location and a second location, wherein the connecting member is ~~operable~~ configured to couple with the first

connecting screw ~~positionable in the first vertebra~~ at the first location of the connecting member, and the connecting member is ~~operable~~ configured to couple with the second connecting screw ~~positionable in the second vertebra~~ at the second location of the connecting member for stabilization of the first vertebra and the second vertebra.

2 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned in the first vertebra from an anterior side of the first vertebra into the vertebral body of the first vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned in the second vertebra from an anterior side of the second vertebra into the vertebral body of the second vertebra.

3 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 2, wherein the first vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the first vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the first vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the second vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the second vertebra.

4 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 2, wherein the first vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the first vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the first vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the second vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the second vertebra.

5 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first vertebral screw is a first anterior-entry vertebral screw, and the second vertebral screw is a second anterior-entry vertebral screw.

6 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first vertebral screw is a first pedicle-entry screw, and the second vertebral screw is a second pedicle-entry screw.

7 (Original). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the connecting member is coupled to the first connecting screw adjacent the second end of the first connecting screw, wherein the connecting member is coupled to the second connecting screw adjacent the second end of the second connecting screw.

8 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 7, wherein the first location of the connecting member is at ~~the~~ a first end of the connecting member, wherein the second location of the connecting member is at ~~the~~ a second end of the connecting member.

9 (Original). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the connecting member is coupled to the first connecting screw at the second end of the first connecting screw, wherein the connecting member is coupled to the second connecting screw at the second end of the second connecting screw.

10 (Currently Amended). The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein a first cutout portion is provided at an anterior side of the first vertebra, and a second cutout portion is provided at an anterior side of the second vertebra, the connecting member ~~operable~~ configured to reside within the first cutout portion and the second cutout portion when coupled with the first connecting screw and the second connecting screw.

11 (Currently Amended). A method for stabilizing a lower vertebra and an upper vertebra from an anterior side of the vertebrae using a vertebral stabilization assembly, the method

comprising:

inserting a first vertebral screw, which includes a shaft provided with a threaded portion ~~operable~~ configured to threadingly engage the lower vertebra, into the lower vertebra from an anterior side of the lower vertebra such that a portion of the threaded portion of the shaft engages a vertebral body portion of the lower vertebra, the shaft of the first vertebral screw having an engaging portion ~~operable~~ configured to receive a first connecting screw, and the shaft of the first vertebral screw having a coupling portion ~~operable~~ configured to couple with a guide member;

inserting a second vertebral screw, which includes a shaft provided with a threaded portion ~~operable~~ configured to threadingly engage the upper vertebra, into the upper vertebra from an anterior side of the upper vertebra such that a portion of the threaded portion of the shaft engages a vertebral body portion of the upper vertebra, the shaft of the second vertebral screw having an engaging portion ~~operable~~ configured to receive a second connecting screw, and the shaft of the second vertebral screw having a coupling portion ~~operable~~ configured to couple with the guide member;

locating the coupling portion of the shaft of the first vertebral screw from an anterior side of the lower vertebra;

coupling the guide member to the coupling portion of the

shaft of the first vertebral screw from the anterior side of the lower vertebra;

inserting a lower connecting screw, which includes a first end ~~adapted~~ configured to be received by the engaging portion of the first vertebral screw and a second end, ~~the lower connecting screw inserted~~ through the anterior side of the lower vertebra using the guide member;

locating the coupling portion of the shaft of the second vertebral screw from an anterior side of the upper vertebra;

coupling the guide member to the coupling portion of the shaft of the second vertebral screw from the anterior side of the upper vertebra;

inserting an upper connecting screw, which includes a first end ~~adapted~~ configured to be received by the engaging portion of the second vertebral screw and a second end, ~~the upper connecting screw inserted~~ through the anterior side of the upper vertebra using the guide member; and

connecting the second end of the lower connecting screw ~~of the lower vertebra~~ to the second end of the upper connecting screw ~~of the upper vertebra~~ with a connecting member.

12 (Currently Amended). The method of Claim 11, wherein the first vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the lower vertebra and into a

pedicle portion of the lower vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the upper vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the upper vertebra.

13 (Currently Amended). The method of Claim 12, wherein the first vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the lower vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the lower vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is ~~operable~~ configured to be positioned through the vertebral body of the upper vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the upper vertebra.

14 (Currently Amended). The method of Claim 11, wherein a first cutout portion is provided at an anterior side of the lower vertebra, and a second cutout portion is provided at an anterior side of the upper vertebra, the connecting member ~~operable~~ configured to reside within the first cutout portion and the second cutout portion when coupled with the lower connecting screw and the upper connecting screw.